

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3861

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH COMPLAINT OVER FCC DECISION ON
TRANSATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE PROPOSAL

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY
CONCERNING FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DECISION
ON ROUTE AND TIMING OF NEW SUBMARINE CABLE LINKING
U.S. AND EUROPE. WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED NOTE AND SAID
IT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF RELEVANT AUTHORITIES
IN U.S. GOVERNMENT.

2. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF BODY OF NOTE FOLLOWS:

"SINCE 1975, 26 EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS,
AMONG THEM THE SPANISH ADMINISTRATION, HAVE JOINTLY
STUDIED, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC
COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTION COMMITTEE, (A PART OF THE
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ADMINISTRATIONS) THE PLANNING OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA
IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

IN THE CONSULTATIONS HELD BETWEEN THE ABOVE MENTIONED
EUROPEAN ADMINISTRATIONS AND SEVERAL AMERICAN FIRMS WORK-
ING IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
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A FUNDAMENTAL PLAN WAS PREPARED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
AND UTILIZATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
NECESSARY TO SATISFY ALL PARTIES UNTIL THE END OF 1985.
THE PLAN FORESEES THE OPERATION IN 1981 OF A NEW TAT-7
TRANS-ATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ON NOVEMBER 22, 1977, THE U.S. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION EXPRESSED, HOWEVER, ITS PREFERENCES FOR A DIFFERENT PLAN, WHICH WOULD POSTPONE THE OPERATION OF ANY NEW TRANS-ATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE UNTIL AFTER 1985. THIS WOULD ALSO EFFECT THE LAYING OF A LATER TAT-8 CABLE, WHICH WOULD LINK THE COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

IN VIRTUE OF THE FOREGOING, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT IS NORMAL IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHEREIN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIONS AFFECTED IS INDISPENSABLE, THIS MINISTRY REQUESTS THE EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT TO THE COMPETENT U.S. AUTHORITIES THAT THE COMPETENT SPANISH AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE POINT OF VIEW ALREADY EXPRESSED BY OTHER EUROPEAN ADMINISTRATIONS, CALLING ATTENTION TO THE NEGATIVE CHARACTER OF THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND TO THE NEED OF REVISING THE DECISION IN ORDER TO REACH A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES."

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